

A Quarterly Devoted to Genealogical Research in Ashley County, Arkansas

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Volume XVI, No.3 Winter 2001-02



Ashley County Genealogical Society
Drawer R
Crossett, Arkansas 71635





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# Letters From Americans in Uniform Compiled by Frank E. Denson

December 6, 1917(Date published)

**Editor Ashley County Eagle:** 

Thinking that some might be interested in knowing where the majority of Ashley County's drafted boys are now located, how we are getting along in army life, etc., I am taking advantage of the opportunity of writing to the Eagle.

On the morning of November 15<sup>th</sup>, I was lying on my bunk in camp Pike taking my peaceful rest, when Lane Blanks came in and said that we were ordered to be ready to leave in fifteen minutes. I told him I would be ready in five.

We boarded the train about noon, there being thirteen coaches, and in all five hundred men.

We saw much of interest on the way. Passed through Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Tenn., and Dalton, Atlanta, and Augusta, Ga.; also a part of Ala., but I was asleep at that time and didn't see anything.

We have been well fixed here and having pretty good time, considering we are the army. Camp Jackson is in a few miles of Columbia and we have a chance to go to town several times each week. The first of this week about twenty-five of our Arkansas boys were transferred to Sanantone, Texas, we understand, to go in the aviation corps—Columbus Johnson, of Hamburg, and Roger Mills, of Morrell [Boydell], were among the number. The rest of us wanted to go, but didn't happen to the luck.

The boys from home have been assigned to various branches—the Infantry, Artillery, Machine Gun, Signal Corps. I haven't been assigned yet, don't know what I will get.

Among other things that we boys have learned here in the army, is a number of army songs.

Here is a sample—

"Dear army beans, you know I love you, for I eat you every day; Dear army beans, I'm thinking of you when I'm hiking miles away.

Mosquitoes bite down in the wildwoods, when I'm thinking most of you; Dear army beans, I smell you cooking, and I'm coming back to you."

This Thanksgiving morning found we boys, that is those who are in the barracks that I am in quarantine, it having been put on last night, and it has been raining besides. Some of the boys have been very blue and out of heart, and I think a little home sick, but I haven't worried at all: why should I? I have had plenty to employ my time, for I am not yet too far away to write to home folks or to dear little girls back there. And then at noon we had a lunch consisting of roast beef, spuds, peach pie, coffee and bread.

And at six o'clock we are going to have Thanksgiving turkey and all that goes with it.

We can, or will eat this dinner and think of the Thanksgiving dinner we have eaten not long since, with home folks and friends, and hope and pray that before many more Thanksgivings days have passed that we boys will be at home again.

But why should we boys have any fear of the future? He that cares for the sparrows in their flight will also send His protecting angels to hover around the soldier boy who calls on Him in time of need.

> Your friend, E. L. Walker, 20<sup>th</sup> Co., 5<sup>th</sup> Training Bri., Camp Jackson, S. C.

LETTER FROM NORFOLK, VA. To: Mrs. Ada McLeod, of Matoka from her son, Dewey Martin.

December 6, 1917

Dear Mama: I am at the Naval Y. M. C. A. to-night. I and three other boys have a room here. Two of the boys, Rodenhammer and Jerome, work with me in the same fire room at the same watch. We hired a car at Yorktown and came here this morning. We will have to get back by tomorrow at 6 p.m. to go on our boat, the Missouri. We passed an Aviation Station at Newport News. A Machine rose in the air and made four loops while we were passing. As we came down from New York on the battle-ship, Missouri, we saw an Airship and 4 Areoplanes [aeroplanes] in flight at the entrance of the bay guarding it. They fly easy and smooth and are easy to sight at any body, and keep a gun on them. We have just got back from sea. We were out six days. There was a storm for two days; the waves came up on the top decks, and there was about six inches of water in the gun deck that night. Almost every one of us got sick. I was so sick till I thought I would die while we were in the fire room on watch, and my fire roommates were the same. The sea was so rough we would sometimes almost fall on top of our heads. We all lost our suppers and were hardly able to keep up steam. We will have to coal our ship this coming week, as the bunkers are nearly empty. It is a job that I don't like. Also, firing, as the temperature stays about 105 in the fire room with but very little air. The perspiration pours off of a fellow like midsummer. We are expecting to go to sea again after we take coal. There are between twenty and thirty battleships in our fleet, not counting the cruisers and destroyers. We had target practice

Monday on the bay with the auxilliary [auxiliary] guns. There were some very good shots made. We have better food on board ship than we had at Newport, R. I., at the training station, and have a place to sit down to eat. I am glad I am on shore tonight as there will not be any one to get us up at 5 o'clock in the morning, and we will get one night's sleep. When we are on board ship we never know when we will be called up to go on watch. Norfolk seems to be a thriving city, judging from what I have seen of it. Everything has war prices here; a hair cut and shave costs 65c.; a dinner costs anywhere from 35c to \$2.50. Tell my friends to not forget to write me, as we boys are delighted to receive letters from home. My present address is, Dewey Martin

U. S. Missouri Care P.M. New York

Your son, Dewey.

[12-6-1917]

A letter to Mrs. T.G. Duckworth, of Milo, from her son at Camp Bowie, Tex.

Dearest Mama: Your dear sweet letter came to me some few days ago, and I was indeed glad to hear from you. The cake you sent was so nice. I sure did enjoy it, how it made think of home. The boys in my tent helped me to eat it and they all thought it was so nice. When one gets anything that way from home we always divide and eat it together. We are all like brothers. They helped me to eat butter also that you sent, and we certainly did enjoy it.

I will tell you about some of our work: After drill we walk  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles out from Camp and dig trenches. We are at work on five miles of trenches and will soon have it completed. We are working on big dug outs that are ? feet under the ground, 20x27x15, that is the width and depth. There are two of these rooms, so there is some work to do yet. Then after we do two or three hours work on the trenches we line up and march back to Camp. Then we have infantry drill until 4:30, and at 5 we have Regimental Parade, which consists of six companies, something near 2,400 men in all. Then after the parade we are set free to do as we please. There are eight to a tent, so we have lots of company. We take turns in making fires, one gets up one morning, and one another, so we get along very nicely together. I will close, hoping this finds all well. Love to all. Write soon, and please remember me in your prayers.

Your loving son,
Dewey Duckworth,
Co. A, 111<sup>th</sup>
Reg. Eng'es.
Camp Bowie, Ft. Worth, Texas.

[12-6-1917] Editor Ashley Co. Eagle, Hamburg, Ark. Dear Sir:

Thought I would write and tell you how I appreciate your paper and what it means to me to read the news from home. The Eagle comes regularly now.

I am expecting to go to sea at anytime now. Three thousand went to sea from here this week. I had a letter from one of my old pals, Geo. Mehas from Bastrop, La.; he's some where in France. I get letters from several of my friends who are in different branches of U.S. service.

We boys are having good times here. Every one at this Station was invited to take dinner Thanksgiving Day at different places in Chicago. These people sure are doing their part for us Jackies. A Blue Jacket is highly respected in Chicago by everybody, especially by business men. I suppose Floyd Ross, one of Ashley County boys, was in the bunch that went to sea this week.

Expecting to see all my friends in and around Hamburg some time in the future. I remain as ever.

Joseph P. Burgess, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reg., Co. B., Great Lakes, Ill., C/o Mr. Crumbeck Dec. 1, 1917

Extract from a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ross from their son, Floyd. [Dec. 13, 1917]

Dear Father and Mother:

I am now in Philadelphia. Just arrived here today. We left Great Lakes at 10 o'clock Friday and arrived here at 10 o'clock Sunday. We sure had a fine trip. We left out of Illinois went through Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Canada, New York, and stopped in Pennsylvania. We sure went a roundabout way and passed through some fine towns and cities, Detroit and Battle Creek, Michigan crossed the Niagara River at Buffalo, N.Y., stopped off at

Buffalo about one hour, and a good lady there gave us some candy and cigarettes. We sure did appreciate it, and we had a fine time. We were on the road forty-eight hours and all I regret about the trip is that I didn't get to see the Niagara Falls. Believe me, Philadelphia is some burg, it sure is a swell place. There were 755 sailors, the largest drag that ever left Great Lakes at one time. It took 24 coaches to carry us through and at times there were 3 engines pulling at once, over the mountains. We sure went over some high mountains and through same pretty valleys. It was some sight for me. The Battleships here in the yards sure are swell; there are several here the Battleships of Oklahoma and other places.

Mama, have they ever heard from Joe Kelly yet, I guess he is in France guarding the sailors. They sure sent lots of them over there.

Give my love to all and tell everybody to write to me. Answer at once.

Your loving son. Floyd J. Ross, U. S. Navy Yard, Bldg. 254 Philadelphia, Pa.

The following is a copy of a letter to Mrs. Roxie McPherson from her son, Clifton M. Jordan, who is now with the American Expeditionary Force in France. Clifton is an Ashley County boy but has been in Montana for the past three years where he homesteaded a tract of land. He answered to the call of the "colors" last July:

December 26, 1917

Dear Mother and all:

How is everybody getting along? I landed safely abroad. We had a very nice trip coming over, not anything to see except water. There was water everywhere you looked. We are in England now, but don't expect to stay here long. This is a pretty country, the grass is still green. We marched down to the town of Winchester this afternoon. It surely is an old town. I saw one Cathedral that was built in the year 1000, all stone and green with age. It is the longest one in the world. There are some that cover more ground, but not as long as this one. They begun holding services there in the year 1003, how is that for dating back? I saw an old Court that was used by the King away back in the years 1400 and 1500, and on up. It is not used for that purpose now. The Castles are "big," all stone, just like you read about in 'love stories," with the high brick walls, driveways and all; the streets are narrow. It is snowing outside now, but it is not cold. By by for this time.

Your son, Clifton Jordan.

# DEATH OF HERMAN CRAIG

One of the saddest bits of news that reached us during the holidays was the announcement of the death of Herman Craig, one of our best soldier boys, at Camp Beauregard, which occurred on the 20th of December. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Craig, of Rawls, and was twenty-three years old on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November last. His father visited him only a few weeks before he was taken sick, and left him in the enjoyment of perfect health and well pleased with his surroundings, and published in the Eagle an account of his trip, which our readers will doubtless remember. survived by his parents, three brothers and one sister, who have our heartfelt sympathy in the great sorrow that robbed their home of all the usual joys of the Christmas season. His remains were accompanied home by several of his comrades, and his body was laid to rest in Antioch Cemetery on Saturday before Christmas [December 22, 1917]. He had invested in \$5000.00 life insurance for the benefit of his parents, and this amount will be paid them in monthly installments until the entire amount has been paid. This act on his part evidenced his sincere love for his parents and his interest in their future welfare.

# FROM CAMP BEAUREGARD.

January 3, 1918

Dear Friends and Loved Ones at home: Christmas is over and I wish to tell you of our Christmas and how we fare in camp.

Everything was just as lively with us as could be expected under the prevailing circumstances.

The largest portion of this camp was under a very strict quarantine, because of various diseases, some of which are very dangerous and Uncle Sam takes every precaution against them. It seemed quite hard for us to be shut in, especially during the exciting holiday of Christmas, but we must willingly submit to the high authorities and it was not so bad after all. At first many were very badly disappointed because of not getting to go home, but they soon became reconciled to stay here and make the best of the worst. In fact, we all had a real nice time and we gave Uncle Sam credit for it all.

The Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. gave each of us a pair of woolen socks, a box of candy, a pipe, a pack of pipe filler and a tooth brush. Do you not think all this very nice for a soldier boy to receive?

I have not told you the best yet. Our dinner on Christmas day is worth space to tell about. We had turkey, turkey, turkey and pumpkin pie. You may fill in between the turkey and the pie with anything, we had it all.

We have a tent Y. M. C. A. that is filled with all homily pleasure. It was decorated with evergreens and was truly beautiful. Music was to be heard and we could also pass away time by enjoying games such as rook, checkers, pit, chess, dominoes and flinch.

Some have a false conception of how we fare in camp. I find a soldier's life is not so hard after we get used to it. It was hard to give up civic pleasures and loved ones at home but duty calls us and we must answer the call of our colors and fight and die, if need be. It is plainly to be seen that justice demands a halt of the outrages committed abroad and it is up to some American youth to stop it by stopping the the Kaiser. We must extinguish every spark of Kaiserism and set the world for Democracy, then we can return from over the briny and rest assured that peace and good will reign.

I am pleased with our service here. Three boys are in this Company from dear old Ashley. They are Ethan Ragan, Calvin Ruff and myself. We are in the Medical Dept., 156 Amb. Co. Our service is light considering same other branches. We have from two to four hours of infantry drill four days each week. The rest of our time is taken up with litters and lectures on various subjects concerning sanitation. Our positions at the front will be between the first aid station and the field hospital. We must care for the wounded and keep all, able to walk, at the front. There will be quite a bit of responsibility on us, so we must be very efficient. We have a four months schedule this side of France and then we are to go into actual service.

We are becoming more reconciled to cross the "Big Pond," each day we are in the army.

We certainly do appreciate the gratitude shown us by folks at home. The letters cheer us so much because we learn of affairs there and get a renewal of the spirit to give us courage to push on to victory. Our original bunch of Ashley's boys has been very badly split up. Some are in Camp Pike, some are in Camp Jackson, S.C., and some are here in this camp. We could not stay together as we would have liked, so it is good that we were seperated at once. Just let us be gone for a while but not forgotten and we will be glad to greet you again in the future.

A Soldier, Aubra T. Bunn 156 Ambulance Co., Camp Beauregard, La.

France, Jan. 6, 1918 Mr. Sam Baird, Hamburg, Ark. Dear Sam:

Just a few lines to let you know and the Ashley County people know I am still able to kick.

I am stationed in Central France after a short time spent in England. Am working temporarily as flying Instructor, but hope to go after the Boche sometime in early spring. Am not allowed to detail conditions here, but can say we are all very well satisfied and anxious to do all we can.

The French are wonderful people and show us every courtesy in their power. We see some wonderful sights over here, old castles and palaces that have the appearances of having been built at the beginning of the world.

Go after the slackers and give us all the "Sammies" as fast as possible. Remember me to all my friends and write when you can.

Lieut. J. Carroll Cone 3<sup>RD</sup> Aviation Ins. Center., American Exp. Force, France, via N.Y.

## [1-10-1918]

#### LETTER FROM FRANCE

Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Kelly of Promise Land neighborhood, have just received a letter from their son Joe, now with the U.S.N. Aviation forces in France, dated December 13<sup>th</sup>, in which he says:

"I received your letter yesterday and was glad to learn that the folks at home are well, and Mack is better. I have been here a long time and yesterday was the first letter I have received from the United States.

This Country is a nice warm place but it is rough, rocky and hilly. I have made an allotment of 20.00 a month for you for twelve months. You can tell the boys that there sure is plenty of water in the Atlantic. I sure wished one day that I was back at home, for it is a long way across the ocean. I am proud to learn that you made a good crop and that everything is all right. I wish you could see the Frenchmen with their wooden shoes and their two wheel carts.

Mama don't worry about me. I will be all right. I received a letter from Edna yesterday, and the handkerchief, which sure was pretty, and I certainly was glad to get. I am not allowed to tell anything. When I get home I'll tell you of the new things I have seen. I sent money home several days ago to buy all of the children Christmas presents."

[1-17-1918]

Editor Eagle: Through your kindness may I write to the folks at home. I suppose it's snowing most every where now, about 8 inches here and still falling. Rather hard on soldiers, especially those on guard, for they have to walk their post as though they were in sunny California, you will at all times find us there. Now here is what I am longing to say; to-day our Captain came in and asked who wanted to go to "France." And I was the first one to get my name on the list, ha, ha, pretty soon I'll be over there and have a chance to do my bit for "My Flag and Country." I am just tickled to know that soon I'll get to go. We are ready at a minute's notice.

Now I've suffered from many diseases this winter, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> I was sent to the Base Hospital, and returned Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> to find my Company gone. I had measles, pneumonia, mumps and scarlet fever and since then my feet and hands have been frozen in discharge of duty how I've suffered of course the story would be endless. Now I feel O. K., except my feet, and maybe they will be O.K.

Come on Boys, let's go, for soon or late we will get you any way; so come now, be early, don't be late; for when the Kaiser has lifted his sombrero to the Red, White and Blue, it's then, Dear Comrades, you may return to the ones that are so true, and think we boys who do our bit can always look the world in the face and claim this country as our own.

After you are here a while you will then like it fine, and it's teachings will make you proud you are a soldier.

Now may I thank the Editor for his kindness; he is sure a friend to the soldiers. When our address changes we write him and he sends a back number of the Eagle, and by that means we never miss a copy; and I am sure it's some job to keep his mailing record complete.

So we thank you, Mr. Editor, I'll be in France in less than thirty days. Remember me as one of your soldiers who will soon be over there.

Yours sincerely,
J. Lindsey McDuffie,
U. S. N. A.

January 14<sup>th</sup> , 1918

An extract from Bunyan Riley's letter to his mother Camp Beauregard January 1918

My Dear Sweet Mother:

I hope you are in perfect health. I sure did hate to hear that you had been in ill health. I am getting along just fine. No mama, I don't sleep cold at night. We have four heavy blankets and they with our heavy overcoats keep us perfectly warm. But I think you for offering to send me more cover for

my bed. Don't worry over my health. Uncle Sam knows the value of a healthy "Sammy" and the medical department here is on the job. Then every soldier is taught the value of good health and our officers are doing

everything in their power to keep us well.

Statistics show that out of 20,000 soldiers in camp, deaths are fewer than in our large cities, and we have had a measles epidemic and good weather for pneumonia. And you know that measles and pneumonia don't go well together. I sure am glad that I have had measles and mumps. I am better off here than I would be at home for health is protected by every energy our officers can put forth. And we have a set of officers who have the interest of their boys at heart. Our Captain has had experience in the Phillipines and you know that is the most unhealthy country our soldiers ever had to put up with. We won't get to come home for Xmas, but most of the men are in good spirits, for they realize it is a time for sacrificing pleasures and training themselves so that an end may come to "Kaiserism" in the quickest possible time. And it is coming, for Uncle Sam's boys are anxious to go to the front. And we are being trained in the most scientific ways. There are English and French officers here training us.

Mama, you may tell the mothers of other Hamburg and Ashley County boys that they needn't worry over the health of their boys; but they will need cheering up and a letter is a cheering thing for a soldier, and most any one

could write some soldier friend of their's a letter.

Well mama, I hope to get to come home when we are freed from quarantine. So by by, with lots of love from your soldier boy.

Bunyan Riley Co. K., 153<sup>RD</sup> Inf.

Hempstead, L. I., N. Y. January 7, 1918

To the Editor, to my many friends of Hamburg and Ashley County, and to the home boys whom I left in the Army Camps at Little Rock, Arkansas, Columbia, S.C., and San Antonio, Texas:

Having been shipped here to Long Island, as outgoing for Foreign service, and deeming this my last opportunity, I drop you a few lines.

After having been transferred to the aviation section, I have passed what is called a "Trade Test" and qualified as a mechanic. However, I intend standing the test for Pilot as soon as we have crossed the big pond.—From

the little experience which I have had, I find this a very desirable branch of service.

Bidding you all a fond farewell and hoping to meet the home boys "over there," and that we may return in triumphant peace. I remain,

> Columbus Johnson 126 Aero Squadron.

# OUR SOLDIER BOYS.

[January 17, 1918]

To the Editor of the Eagle:

I have read with an absorbing interest the letters you have published from our soldier boys and have felt that they should know how we at home feel, both toward the cause in support of which they are leaving their homes and all who are dear to them to uphold. I am, therefore, writing you this letter in the hope that it may reach each of them.

I am convinced and am certain that every freedom loving American citizen is convinced that the cause for which you fight, stalwart sons of Ashley County, is as noble and righteous a cause as that for which the Father of our Country and his indomitable Patriots withstood the onslaughts of the tyranous [tyrannous] British King. It is more so. You fight not only for the continuation of the freedom for which our forefathers fought and died, but you fight also for the freedom of the world. They fought to sustain the first great government of freedom. You fight to conquer the last stronghold of the god of war. You fight for peace itself. And, as it has truthfully been said, "The future of the world is up to you. The safety of your home depends on you. The faith of over a hundred million people looks to you. The hope of Christendom lies in you. The strength of a man to defend his own surges to victory through you. And the light of a just God leads on." Likewise, "If you had been present fifty million years or so back yonder when the world was made, and if the fates had offered you a cosmic field glass, to look down the ages and across the map of the world, spying out the best time and place in which to be a soldier, you could not have then settled the matter better than to choose this war to fight, this country to fight from, this cause to fight for."

It is the fond hope and prayer of all good men, whether they be in the trenches fighting this the greatest battle of freedom or whether they be at home backing and supporting you who are to be on the battle line, that the conclusion of this terrible holocaust may be as expressed in the following lines of immortal Tennyson:

"Till the war-drum throbb'd no longer, and the battle-flags were furl'd

In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.

There the common sense of most shall hold a fretful realm in awe.

And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law."

Finally, brave soldiers of freedom's cause, feel assured that we who are left behind, as well as you who are away, are receiving many benefits from this war. We are learning more about how to economize: we are becoming less selfish, and more sacrificing; we are purifying our own democracy and making it more amenable to the will of the people; we are purifying our each and every soul and drawing nearer to the Lord God of Hosts. We have seen the Vision of Truth. Indeed, upon the return of peace and tranquility, after the certain victory of right over might, you will find a home land different from that you left behind, a better and more ideal place to live and a more brotherly people to live among.

Boys, purify yourselves as the hosts of Gideon were purified for their contest for freedom, and God speed the day of your triumphant return is my sincere prayer.

Most sincerely,

Y. W. Etheridge.

Vancouver Barracks, Wash Jan. 10,1918

Dear Mother and Homefolks:

As I have reached my Camp and have an opportunity, I shall write you a short sketch of my trip.

I left Jefferson Barracks, Mo., At 10:30 Saturday night, Jan. 6<sup>th.</sup> It was snowing there when I left and had been for several hours.

There were one hundred and three of us, all engineers. We left St. Louis about 20'clock over the Missouri Pacific to Kansas City. There we were put on the Union Pacific which we traveled on until we reached our destination.

As we were on a troop train we were not allowed to get off at the different stops, for the longest period that we stopped was about one hour and ten minutes in Denver, Colorado, where we were given some exercise. The following are the names of some of the cities that we passed through: Kansas City, Mo.; Kansas City, Kan.; Denver, Colorado; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Pocetello [Pocatello], Idaho; Portland, Oregon.

Thinking that you and the people of Ashley County would like to hear from some of the Ashley County boys who are in the different Camps waiting for a try at Kaiser Bill will give you some of our experiences.

We left Hamburg on September 19<sup>th.</sup> and arrived at Camp Pike that night and got our vaccinations and first typhoid shot about twelve o'clock. Luck was with us and all fifty of us were put in one Company, the 1<sup>st</sup> Prov. Co. of the Ammunition Train. After about a two week's drill we were transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wagon Company Ammunition Train. We stayed one day and a half with that Company, then we were transferred to the Supply Train and were scattered among six companies. I was transferred to the Fifth Co. With me were Whitlock, Barnes, Simms and Sullivan. We stayed with the Supply Train until the seventeen of October, when we were transferred over here, and there we were scattered everywhere, some going to the Infantry, Artillery, Military Police; Whitlock and myself going to the Engineers.

On arriving here we were put in the 126 Depot Brigade. On Nov. 15, after all of us in my Company but 36 were transferred, we were put under quarantine for meningitis for nearly three weeks. During this time we were not allowed out of Barracks. I was second cook during this time. We spent Thanksgiving under quarantine, but this didn't keep us from having a good dinner of turkey and cranberry sauce. The quarantine was lifted one day and Whitlock came to the Engineers the next.

I guess it will be correct to tell what the Engineers do. We are the construction unit of the army; we build roads, bridges, dugouts, and also do repair work.

The Engineers are the second highest branch of the service, the Headquarters Brigade being the highest branch. Since being in the Engineers, I think I have shoveled about nine tons of dirt and dug about a million stumps.

Would like to know how everything is progressing in old Ashley. We fellows all will appreciate and try to answer all letters we receive.

Wishing you and old Ashley County a very prosperous year. I am an Ashley County boy in Khaki.

Willie A. Stewart, Company F. 306 Engineers, Camp Jackson, South Carolina.

Jan. 20, 1918

Dear Homefolks:

I saw some very pretty country on the way out here. I believe that Colorado is the best looking country that I saw. All of these western states are prairie land and one can see as far as one's eyes will let him where there are no mountains. I believe the prettiest scene I saw was the Rocky Mountains, about one hundred and fifty miles away. The sun was shining on them and the perpetual snow looked as if it was a bank of white clouds way back in the horizon. I saw some large ranches in Colorado, Wyoming and Idaho. It was peculiar to notice the differences of climate. There was snow all through Missouri and Kansas. In Colorado the snow disappeared and we found regular spring weather. In Wyoming and Idaho we found snow again. In the Eastern part of Oregon it was snowing for the first time this winter, Washington is a state of two seasons, a rainy one and a dry one. We are having the wet one now. To think of the latitude of Washington one would not think of the grass being green at this time of year.

Is Lafayette still at Camp Jackson? If not I wish you would send me his address. I have not heard from him since Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>. If you can learn Steve's and Dan's addresses I would like to know them. I never saw Dan in Jefferson Barracks after Christmas night, and Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> was the last time I saw Steve.

I think I will like Vancouver some better than Jefferson Barracks. We have much better quarters and seemingly good officers. We arrived here about 9 o'clock this morning, taking us four days and nights to run the distance of 2,300 miles.

We were assigned to our company this morning and had light drill this afternoon. Our lieutenant told us this morning that they intend to have us in France within two months – so you know that means a lot of hard work for us.

I am not feeling well tonight so shall not write any more this time. Mamma I wish you would send the Eagle to me at once. Tell all my friends to write me. Write soon to your loving son.

Carroll E. Byrd,

My address is

318 Engineers,

Company D,

Vancouver Barracks, Washington.

Camp Jackson, S. C.

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1918

Mr. S. B. Baird,

Hamburg, Ark.

Dear Sir:

How are you all this Sunday afternoon? I am feeling fine, having plenty to eat, plenty of clothes, and lots of work to do; so what more could I wish for than for a few days furlough to come home and see you all.

We have had more work to do than usual for the last two weeks between some of the men have transferred to other Batteries, and those that were left had to keep busy training, feeding, standing guard and such things as became necessary. I went on guard Monday at one o'clock and was relieved at one o'clock Tuesday. There are new men coming in every day now and maybe it won't be so hard on us.

We carried the horses out for the exercise yesterday. Some of the boys who had not been here very long let theirs get away from them.

I did not get to go to Sunday School this morning and I certainly did hate to miss the lesson. I suppose they still have Sunday School at Extra.

I received your much appreciated letter last night, also one from Roy Sawyer and Dave. I certainly enjoy the many letters that I get from my friends at home. Mother, you might have thought that I would have been some where else by this time as I had written you that we expected to move. I do not know when we will move but when we do it may be across the Big Pond in order to go after the Kaiser and his forces.

Your son, Zemri Sawyer, 317 Field Artillery Battery E. Camp Jackson, S. C.

# **WORLD WAR II**

Nov. 17, 1943

Pvt Thurston B [Bobbie] Oliver A.S.N. 38508157 Co. D 90<sup>th</sup> Tng. Bn. Camp Roberts, Calif.

Dear Pal,

Well I guess you thought I wasn't going to write you. I moved last week to the Co. D 90<sup>th</sup>. I don't like it here as good as I did at the 82<sup>nd</sup>, but I don't guess I will be here long. I think I'm coming home next week, I sure hope I do. We haven't done much since I've been here and I hope I don't.

There is about 10 air corp men leaving today. I have about four pals leaving. I don't guess I will see them any more. I wish I was going with

them. Oh, tell your mother that I think of her often and tell her thanks for the writing paper she sent me.

I have been writing Dewey [Sparks] but I haven't heard from him in a long time. I guess he is having a good time going to school, I guess you are too. I got a letter from Bobbie P. [Phillips] the other day. He said the Navy is really hard.

Well Elmer [Frank E. Denson], how is school, I guess you are still going. I will close, Bye Pal.

A pal, Bobbie

Elmer's PAL was killed on V E Day. His cenotaph in Flat Creek cemetery reads:

THURSTON B. OLIVER

29 AUG 1924 8 MAY 1945 PFC CO F 21<sup>ST</sup> US INF 24<sup>TH</sup> DIV.

KILLED IN COMBAT. BURIED DAVAO, MINDANAO ISLAND SON OF MR. AND MRS. ROBBIE OLIVER.
[AN AMERICAN FLAG ON STONE]

# KOREAN CONFLICT ERA

Sunday Feb. 4th 1951

Dear Mom & Dad,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am now o.k. The last time I wrote you I was so sick that I couldn't have cared what was happening. I had chances to go ashore twice, but I was too sick. I did send after some lemons and a half-pint of whiskey. I made hot toddies before going to bed and it really helped me. It cut all that "stuff" from my lungs and cleared my head more than rattling it. I feel 100% better!

We had 12 below weather and a big snow. Nothing resembling news to write about.

Love, Albert

[Albert's mother said Albert must have been deathly sick to resort to liquor.]

# U. S. S. ORISKANY Tripoli Friday June 15, 1951

Dear Dad,

I got your letter and another from Mom this morning so I will answer them both in one. I sure would like to be there to help you and Will fish some but I suppose it will be October or maybe Christmas before I do.

I have been getting the LEADER although it takes it a pretty good while to get here, but it is the same with all the mail.

Since I started this letter the Captain came through with the Prime Minister of Libya and I guess it was his wife and kids with them.

I am in sick bay now and have been for three days. My piles started bothering me. Don't know if they are going to cut them out or not. All they have done so far is make me take sitz baths and mineral oil. Boy, my ass is sorer than when I first came down here. Ha.

Will close for now. Notice my change in address.

Love,

Albert

(Margin)

## GENEALOGY OF PHILLIP TELFORD BANKSTON 1640-1990

The Bankston Family in America traces its roots from 1441 in Sweden till the present time. They were from the Old Province Smaland. The first American ancestor, Andrew Bankston (Bengtsson) was born in 1640, came to New Sweden in America in 1656 on the ship Mecurious and died in Philadelphia, PA.

The genealogical information through the Seventh Generation is the work of James Donald Bankston and his wife Doris. He very generously gave this information to Phillip Telford Bankston and he published it in 1990. At that time he had retired from the military and was living in Florida.

Phil has put together biographical sketches of his family that are sometime comical, sometimes sad, and sometimes less that kind, but always interesting. His book also has information on the allied families of Ashley County Arkansas and Morehouse Parish ,LA. They are: James Cannon Harris, Eli Carr Smith, John Kelley (a Mississippi Choctaw Indian Chief.)

For those interested there is a copy of the book in the Paul Sullins Library in Crossett.

## FIRST GENERATION

ANDREW BANKSTON(Bengtsson)

b.1640 Sweden d. 1706 Philadelphia, PA

m. Gertrude RAMBO (dau of Peter RAMBO) b.19 Oct. 1650 Philadelphia, d.22 Nov 1668 Philadelphia

**CHILDREN** 

Banct (Benjamin) b. 1670 d. 1748

Jacob b. 10-10-1684 d.1767

\*Andrew

b. 1671 d. 1750

Brigetta b.4-10-1687

Peter

b.3-6-1677

Daniel b.1-22-1691 d.7-11-1745

Catherine

b.1-29-1679

Joseph b.5-2-1696 d.1772

John

b. 3-31-1681 d.6-12-1739

#### SECOND GENERATION

ANDREW BANKSTON JR

b.1671 Philadelphia, d.1750 Chester, PA m. wife unknown

CHILDREN:

Andrew III b.1696

John

Elizabeth b.1698

Daniel

Peter

\*Lawrence b.1704 d.1774

#### THIRD GENERATION

LAWRENCE BANKSTON

b.1704 Philadelphia, PA. D.1774 North Carolina

m.Rebecca Hendricks ca. 1726 (dau John Hendricks and Rebecca Wells)

m.2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Major, ca 1747

CHILDREN: First Marriage

Peter b.PA.

\*Jacob b.1731 Philadelphia,PA d.1817 Clark Co. Georgia Daniel b.1733 PA.

Second Marriage

Lawrence, Jr b. 1748 N.C. d.1844

John b.1750 N.C.

Richard b. 1752 N.C

Andrew b. 1754 N.C. d.1837

Mary b. 1756 N.C.

# FOURTH GENERATION

JACOB BANKSTON b.1731 Philadelphia, PA. d.ca 1817 ClarkCo. Georgia Fought in the American Revolution in Georgia Continental Army m.Elinor Cock (Cox) 1753 CHILDREN
John b.1754 d. 1823 N.C.
Jacob Jr. b. ca 1760
\*Elijah b. 1765 d. 2-22-1849 N.C. Butts Co, Georgia Elinor

#### FIFTH GENERATION

ELIJAH BANKSTON b. 2-26-1765 Guilford Co,N.C. d. 2-22-1849 GA. m.Elizabeth Morris 2-1-1787 S.C. CHILDREN
\*William b.1789 S,C. d.1875
Alfred b. 1805 GA

Henry b. 1812 GA

#### SIXTH GENERATION

WILLIAM BANKSTON b. 1789 S.C. d.Clark Co. AR ca. 1875 m.Temperence Autry 2-7-1812 Jackson Co. GA. CHILDREN: all born in GA. James J. b.1813 Henry b. 1812 ?
\*William Green b,1818 Jacob H.b. 1828 Gemima A b.1832

# SEVENTH GENERATION

Sarah Ann b. 1832

WILLIAM GREEN BANKSTON b.1818 GA d. after 1880 Clark Co.AR m. Mary (Polly) Greason (Greeson) Walton Co.Ga CHILDREN: Born in Georgia Henry b.1844
James M. b.1846
Alfred S. b.1848

John W. b. 1849

Almedy . b, 1852

Mary Elizabeth b. 1854

\*Jacob Hill b. 1-12-1855 d.12-7-1947

Born in Clark Co. AR.

Sarah A. b. 1858

Bedford G. (Doc) b. 1862

Joseph b.1866

Ella b.1869

#### **EIGHTH GENERATION**

JACOB HILL BANKSTON b. 1-12-1855 GA. d. 12-7-1947 Monroe, LA.

m. Mattie Jane Palmer, b. 1-8-1867 d. 1918 Amity, AR

**CHILDREN** 

Madie Lula b.1-15-1885

Eva Jerusha b.12-23-1892 d.11-7-1979

Bertha Lola d.infancy

Pattie Myrtle b.10-25-1894

Mary Nannie b. 4-11-1888 d.ca 1937

Mattie Orange b.1-??-1897

Willie Ella Jane b. 1890 d. 1908

\* Chas Telford Jacob Alexander 9-2-1900 d.1964

#### **NINTH GENERATION**

CHARLES TELFORD JACOB ALEXANDER BANKSTON (TED)

b. 9-2-1900 Amity, AR d.1-31-1964 Bastrop, LA

m. Rosa Inez Harris (dau James Devereaux Harris & Mary Talitha Virgie Ellender Smith)

Wilmar, AR July 1, 1923. d. 12-6-1987 Farmerville, LA.

**CHILDREN** 

\*Phillip Telford b. 4-6-1924

Penn Dewy b.2-27-1926

Mattie Virginia b. 5-1-1929

Wayne Edward b. 11-22-1932

#### **TENTH GENERATION**

PHILLIP TELFORD BANKSTON b.Little Rock, AR 4-6-1924

m. Olympiah Geraldine Carvaretta (dau of Joseph & Angiolina Ramono of Rye, N.H.)

Oct 9,1945, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

CHILDREN

Phillip Telford II b. 2-17-1947 Portsmouth, N.H.

Judith Ann

b. 2-25-1953 Pensacola, FL.

# History of the First Baptist Church



Crossett, Arkansas 1906 - 1975

Compiled by: Gussie Price, assisted by the staff and various members of the church

# HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

An appreciation of the First Baptist Church of Crossett, Arkansas is enriched by an understanding of the conditions which led to the development of the town of Crossett. The town was established by the Crossett Lumber Company which has a long and illustrious history.

**Early Days of Crossett** 

The Crossett Lumber Company was formed in 1899, when three lowa investors bought a vast forest in Arkansas, 920 square miles of tall, whispering pines, laced only by wandering wagon trails and deer paths. The company hauled in a sawmill and imported workers. Gradually a little town took shape. They called it Crossett. Every dwelling and inch of land with the exception of the lot on which the post office stood was owned by the company.

In 1900, Mr. Edgar Gates opened a land office at Hamburg. At the end of the year he had bought another thousand acres. "In November 1901, we decided to move in our heavy machinery regardless of the heavy rains," said Mr. Gates. The in 1902, Crossett was incorporated as a town, mainly

to get recognition for mail delivery.

Early Days of the Church

Minnie Finch Barnes' mother, Mrs. E. H. Finch, remembered that they moved to Crossett in May of 1902, and she said a church 16 X 32 feet, was built the following month. According to local history, this interdenominational church was put up over night by the citizens of the town headed by Mr. Gates to keep away a saloon. So in June of 1902, church services moved from a tent across from where the Missouri Pacific Station site now is into the new building where years later the Rose Inn was built. According to local history this little one room building was used in the fall for school with church continuing on Sunday.

The officers of the first Sunday School were Miss Nina Pennington, Mrs. Stanley Rice, Mrs. C. C. Carroll, Mrs. Elmer Buchner, Mrs. Ida

Dykes and Mr. C. C. Carroll.

The first services by Baptist people of Crossett were held in the dwelling at 310 Oak Street. This dwelling was then used as a school building. The Rev. N. C. Denson of Dermott, early pioneer Baptist preacher in Arkansas, preached the first sermon and held services twice a month.

During the summer of 1905, a revival was held in a brush arbor on the corner of Beech Street and Gates Avenue.

In the spring of 1906, the church was organized with nine charter members. They were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Linder, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Courson, Mr. and Mrs. Will Denton, Misses Nina and Ida Pennington and Mr. J. M. Willis.

In the fall of 1907, the ground was cleared for the church site at the corner of Beech Street and Gates Avenue. At the time, this was the southern end of the town. Members volunteered in construction and gave one day a week to work on the church until it was completed.

Among the first to give gifts in establishing the church was the Crossett Lumber Company which gave the lot and dollar for dollar to build the church. When the members raised fifty dollars the company gave fifty.

Mr. C. D. Oslin, father of Mrs. John Cooper, was the first Sunday School Superintendent to support the church.

After the Rev. M. D. Deloach was called as pastor, the State Mission

Board supplemented the pastor's salary.

The first service was held by the Rev. Denson who took for his text, "Come unto me all that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Two members were added to the church: Mrs. J. M. Willis and Mrs. Will Fletcher.

A revival meeting began the following Sunday and fifty members were added to the church within two weeks. One of these, Mr. C. H. Talley, is still an active member of the church and is currently serving as deacon.

Women's Missionary Union

The Women's Missionary Union was organized in 1908 with seven ladies as charter members and today (1975) there are one hundred eighty seven members which include all the youth organizations. These are:

Acteens: Grades 11 - 12 Acteens: Grades 9 - 10

Girls in Action Group: Grades 1 - 2

Acteens: Grades 6 - 8

Group: Grades 3 - 5

Mission Friends: Grades 4-5 (Girls and Boys).

Multiple Women's Missionary Society organizations were started October 1960, and Mrs. John E. Pogue was elected first W.M.U. Director with Day W.M.S. and Evening W.M.S. Later the name was changed to Day Baptist Women, Evening Baptist Women and another group formed Baptist Young Women.

Organization of Missions and New Churches

The first mission established by the Crossett church was in the community of Locke in 1940. For several years the mission prospered, however, with the development of the automobile and good roads the needs of the community were better met by larger and stronger churches in the area. Thus, the mission was closed and in May 1950, the Board of Deacons was authorized to dispose of the mission property.

In 1941, an opportunity came for the Crossett Baptist Church to serve Baptist people of North Crossett. A mission was formed October 13, 1941 with a membership of 133 in the mission Sunday School. Lexie and Bert Woods ably guided the mission from the beginning. Interest increased and it developed into a church in 1945. The church is known today as First Baptist Church of North Crossett.

Another opportunity came for Crossett Baptist Church to serve Baptist

people in another nearby community - the people who lived southwest of Crossett. These people had not organized a church but met in a brush arbor and in homes for worship. So in 1950, under the leadership of the Rev. J. W. Buckner and the Rev. Harold White a church was organized at Johnson's Mill and it was named Crossett Second Baptist Church.

Town For Sale

On December 5, 1946, identical letters from the Crossett Lumber Company were delivered to each of the 967 homes announcing that the whole town was for sale to the people who lived there. Hardly any aspect of Crossett did not see a quick change. Before the people owned their town there were two small churches - a Methodist and a Baptist. Soon other congregations formed to bring in new ministers. The company continued to give a lot to each and matched privately raised building funds dollar for dollar.

Church Growth

Continually through the years 1942 - 1948, under the pastorate of the Rev. Wilford M. Lee, tithes and offerings were placed in the fund to erect a new and more spacious house of worship. Church growth was evident.

In 1948, with the coming of the new pastor, the Rev. J. W. Buckner, the church kept growing. The same year the Crossett Lumber Company always taking care that the spiritual needs of the community were not neglected - gave \$30,000 dollars toward the new building to accommodate the enlarged membership.

Because of the many duties of the pastor, the church called the Rev.

Harold White as assistant pastor on July 1, 1949.

In 1949, the building fund was sufficient to start immediately on the erection of an edifice that would accommodate the congregation and glorify the Lord.

**Baptists Open New Church** 

Due to the growth of the city southward, a new site was selected on Main Street that the new church might be more in the center of the population of the city. Again the company gave the deed to the lot and the new building was erected in 1949 to accommodate a membership of 1386.

The building committee was headed by Chairman C. F. Tatum and composed of members John Henry Allen, Carl Love, John Anders and George Alcorn.

On moving into the new edifice, the Crossett Baptist Church could look back and know that since its organization in 1906, it had sent eleven men into gospel ministry and helped maintain Gurney Harris as a missionary in Africa

With sufficient physical facilities now provided, emphasis was further placed on evangelism, Bible study and spiritual needs. More of its members surrendered to full time Christian service. Among them were: Paul Ragland, Paul Mitchell, C. L. Howard, Bill Elton, Emmitt Wren,

Quincy Mathis, Don Jones, Jack Gulledge, E. E. Fulton and Philip. Bowles. Another missionary, Edwin Pinkston, entered the Mission Fields of Africa.

With the coming of the Rev. Homer Shirley Jr., in April 1971, emphasis was placed on visitation and witnessing. A major expansion program of the Sunday School was now under way. It included a graded system for the entire Sunday School. This showed the necessity for more supervisory personnel. The music program had grown. Increased interest was shown in the graded choirs. So in 1974, the many duties necessitated an arrangement for C. J. Holiman to be full time Educational Director and the calling of Cannon Lamont as full time Youth and Music Director.

Contribution to the Cooperative Program increased to 26 percent. Designated giving not included in the Cooperative Program also showed

a marked increase.

Records show that in 1974, the church had a membership of 1529 of which 1124 were resident members. The average weekly attendance in Sunday School was 490.

Interesting Facts About the Church

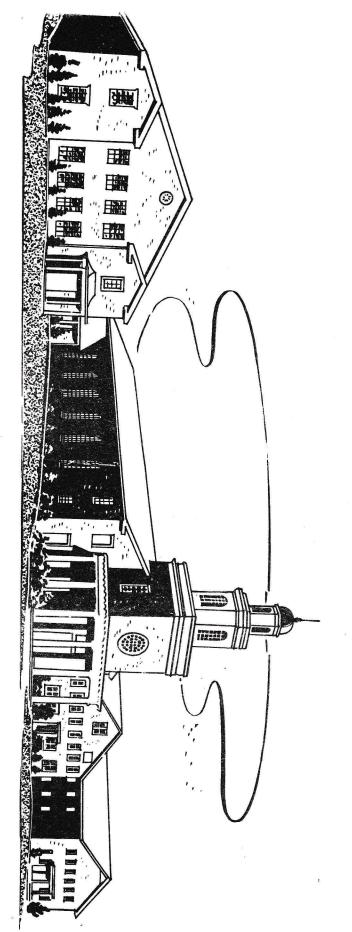
Over 300 baptised into membership in one year's time.

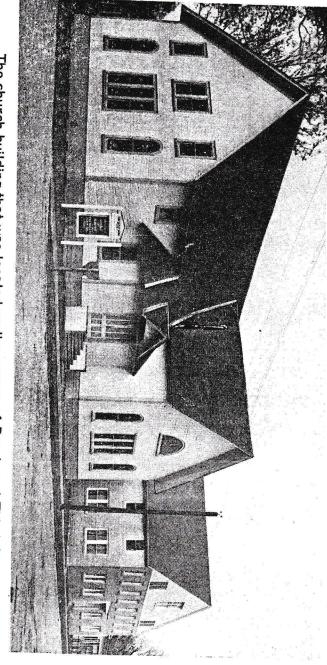
First Sunday School in Arkansas to achieve the Advanced Standard of Excellence.

"Gurney Harris Day" January 14, 1962 - serving as missionary in Africa.

January 12, 1966, the church voted to sponsor Bob Dickerson as missionary at Sharpenhoe, England.

"Culpepper Appreciation Day" - January 23, 1972 - W. W. Culpepper served more than 45 years as treasurer of the church.





The church building that was located on the corner of Beech and Third Avenue.

# PASTORS Through the Years

N. C. Denson	1906 - 1907
N. C. Denson	1907
M. D. Deloach	
L. C. McCann	1908 - 1909
J. B. Luck	1910 - 1914
W. T. King	1914 - 1915
Carl Hinton	1713
Pon   Bridges	1915 - 1918
O D Davis	1919 - 1920
W Farl Westmoreland	1920 - 1925
O. D. Davis W. Earl Westmoreland (C.V.UL.) Blake Smith	1925 - 1926
F. A. Holt	1926 - 1928
W. E. Warren	1020 - 1022
W. E. Warren	1020 1020
T. H. Berry	1732 - 1737
Aubrey C. Halsell	1940 - 1941
Wilford M. Lee	1942 - 1948
J. W. Buckner	1948 - 1952
Robert L. Smith	1953 - 1956
Gerald T. Smith	1957 - 1958
B. G. Hickem	1959 - 1966
Jerry Don Abernathy	1966 - 1970
E E Griovar	
(Interim)	1970 - 1971
I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	1071
Homer W. Shirley Jr.	19/1-
, ,	
MINISTERS OF MUSIC AND EDUCA	ATION
W. Harold White	
	1949 - 1950
(Assist. Pastor)	1951 - 1953
(Assist. Pastor)	1953 - 1954
James E. Birkhead	
Willard E. Burnham	
Jack D. Cowling (Education)	1960 - 1961
(Education)	
CITY COLLECTION	
(Music)	1961
(Music)	1961
Hugh Hairston	1961 - 1963
Hugh Hairston	1961 - 1963
Hugh Hairston (Education)	1961 - 1963 1963 - 1974
Hugh Hairston (Education)	1961 - 1963 1963 - 1974
Hugh Hairston (Education)	1961 - 1963 1963 - 1974
(Education)	1961 - 1963 1963 - 1974 1974 -

# W.M.U Directors Organized: 1908 (Incomplete)

Mrs. Hudgens	1907 -	1908
Mrs. Walker	1909	
Mrs. Walker	.1910	
14 C A Davieween 200	.1711	
Mrs. C. A. Bauerman	.1912 -	1913
Mrs. H. L. McDowell	.1914	
Mrs. G. M. Cobb	.1915 -	1917
Mrs. H. L. Summers	.1918	
Mrs. H. L. Summers	.1919	
Mrs. B. A. Calling VII. X M. A Marell Carry & Ullow. Jane.	.1920 -	1921
Mrs. E. M. Oslin Wolffer & Devall Order Court & Deliver Chiler	1922	Jores
AAre Lim Wilcovon	.1923	0-
AARO D AA COURSON	.1924	- 1925
AATS E AA OSIN Wind V. Levalt Chigh & Velsage . Will. (Varnishy)	.1926	
Mrs. H. L. Summers  Mrs. B. A. Cannon  Mrs. E. M. Oslin Way J. J. Sewell Carpy of Velon Galler  Mrs. C. D. Oslin Department of Jewell Carpy of Velon Other  Mrs. Jim Wilcoxon  Mrs. R. M. Courson  Mrs. E. M. Oslin Will J. Jewell Carpy of Velona Jan. (Visney)  Mrs. L. L. Morris	.1927	
Mrs. L. L. Morris	1928	
AA AA	. 1929	- 1930
Tablillan	1731	- 1732
AARA Dan Burgess	1733	- 1734
AA C E Totum	1733	- 1740
AAre D E I vons	1941	- 1942
AA AA Elion	1743	- 1744
AA .	1745	- 1740
AA I LI AA-Cormick	194/	- 1948
AAme lee Varnell	1949	- 1950
AArs C E Howard	1951	- 1952
AAre Maurice Summers	1953	
AARS E T Allan	1954	- 1955
AA	1730	·
	00172/	
AA	0.41 101	
AA I D AA-Dougald		
AA John C Dogue	1701	- 1700
84 1 17 44-1	704	- 1700
A4 PM 111 C - 1 1	170/	,
AAra Unmatan Etheridae	· • • 5 7 QC	,
AAMO DILLY D Woodward	1707	e e
AAra John E Dogue	dy/	,
AAra O H Darling	17/1	
Mrs. K. R. Crain	1972	2 - 1974

# Hazzard Perry White

#### Hazel Black

My maternal grandfather was Hazzard Perry WHITE. He was born November 25, 1851 in Ashley County Arkansas. The 1860 census shows him living in Beechcreek Township in the household of William J. and Elizabeth R. Oats WHITE. William was his oldest brother. By this time both of his parents, Robert and Malinda Denton WHITE, were dead. He was the baby child of a family of five boys and four girls. In order of age these were William and Leonard, both born in Alabama, Mary, Catherine, Martha, and Stewart, all born in Tennessee, followed by Charlotte, Brazzelus, and Hazzard, all born in Aarkansas. The census lists William and Elizabeth as both being twenty six years old. Elizabeth was born in Georgia. William was a farmer with real estate valued at 2600 and personal property valued at 700 dollars.

In the 1870 census, Hazzard, now eighteen years of ge, is found living with his brother, Brazzelus, or Burr, as he is now known as, and his sister, Charlotte, age twenty. They are listed in household #118, in De Bastrop Township. The young brothers are listed as farm laborers and Charlotte as "keeping house." All are listed as being born in Louisiana. I do not think this is correct as the 1860 census listed Arkansas as place of birth for all three.

On December 23, 1883 Hazzard married Alice Amanda Adams. She was the daughter of Soloman M. ADAMS and Margaret Gillispie ADAMS. Hazzard and Alice spent their entire married life on their farm in Grant Township near Wilmot. He was a farmer and raised cotton, corn and a few livestock. His brand was HP with H and P sharing a common line. She was a wife and mother and kept house. Together Hazzard and Alice had five sons and two daughters. Robert Pugh was the eldest followed by William Joseph, who died at the age of eight, Sidney Lafayette, Leroy, William Aather, followed by the two daughters, Minnie Ocie and Alice Ester. William was buried in Bell Cemetery in what would become the family plot. About a month after William's death Alice gave birth to her fifth son. The couple named this young son William Aather. The name William must have held some special signifince for them, but what at this point in time, I do not know. About five weeks after Esther was born, Alice died. Esther was carried to the "hill country" to be reared by her relatives until she was twelve or thirteen years old. My mother and her father were never close and she said he only wanted her back when she was old enough to work. She never spoke of him

with love but had a measure of respect for him. She often said that he lived from ox-wagon days to airplane days. One of the things that he told her was to be careful with whom she associated. Apparently he did not always approve of her choice of friends. Esther left home at an early age and did not return during her fathers lifetime.

Hazzard P. WHITE died on June 2, 1931 at the age of seventy nine. He is buried in Bell Cemetery along with all of his children except Esther. She is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas where she spent most of her adult life.

Hazel Black RR 3 Box 355 Mount Pleasant, TX 75455-9728 JAMES CANNON HARRIS born 22 Dec 1849 Died 19 April 1940

Married 1. Jane Elizabeth Jones, dau of Capt. William Jones and Cassandra Boett:

Children: ICordelia Elizabeth II James Devreaux IIIMattie Belle IVGreen

Berry V. Mary Alice

Married 2. Rosa Isadora Gallagher B. 4 Oct 1869 d. 26 April 1965
She was the dau of John Wright Gallagher And Sarah Jane Sherrer
Children: VI Willie Frances VII Troy David VIII Eula Elma IX Etta Josephine
X. Clyde Larkin XI John Grady XII Harry XIII Clifford Thompson
IXV Fredrick Eugene

I.Cordelia Elizabeth Harris b.11 May 1875 d.Sept 1951

Married 30 June 1893 Samuel Boulton Dean

Children: A. Henry E. b. 13 May 1894 d.13 Oct 1902 Bu. Unity Cemetery

B. Virdie Belle b. 7 Mar 1897 d. 8 Mar 1956 bu. Unity C.Lillie Elma b. 7 Dec 1898

D. Alver Boulton b.1 March 1901

E. Nina Lea b.10 Feb 1903

F. Oma Nita b.8 Mar 1905 d. 7 May 1937 bu. Unity

G.Faye Augusta b. 1 June 1908

II. James Devreaux Harris b. 28 Feb. 1877 d. 13 Mar 1956 bu. LakeWood Cem. Crossett Married: Virgie Elender Smith

Children: A. Dewey Brian

B. Edeliah Josephine

C. Rosa Inez b. 3 Dec 1902

D. Gursta Mildred b. 28 July 1905

III. Mattie Belle Harris b. 1879 d. 1857 bu. Unity Cemetery

Married: 1. James Washington Barnett

Children: A.Alpha Devreaux

B. Hattie Grace

C. James Williard

D. Mattie Belle

E. Forest Dixie

F. Ruth Frances

G. Nellie Belle

H. Billy Fred

Married :2 Hall Jones cousin to fathers first wife Children: NONE

IV. Green Berry Harris II b. 1881 d.1901 bu. Unity Never married

V. Mary Alice Harris b. 1883 d. 1913 bu. Unity Cemetery
Married: William Charles Kelly
Children: A. Flora CaThelbert Devreaux B. Jerman Charley

VI. Willie Frances b. 16 Sept 1888 d.1970 bu.San Augustine, Tx Married: Robert Malvin Maxwell 25 Jan 1914

Children: A. David Malvin

B.James Lee

C. Jane Frances

D. Donald Reed

E. Rozetta Cora

F. Paul Eugene

G. Richard Thompson

VII. Troy David Harris b. 1 Dec 1889 d.12 Dec 1952 bu. Hickory Grove Married: Annie Matury Farrar McNeely 2 June 1917

Step-Children: Velma McNeely
Bernice MsNeely

Children: A.1.Noble Troy 12 Jan 1920

A.2. Opal Floy 12 Jan 1920 d.

B. Annie Lorene! Jan 1922

C. Eula Agnes 10 Feb 1924

D. Carla Mae 12 Feb 1928

E. Willie Joyce 25 June 1931

VIIIEula Elma Harris b. 27 April 1892 d. 23 Nov 1974 bu. Pinewood

Married: 26 Oct 1913 Edgar Taylor Maxwell

Children A. James Harris 15 Sept 1914

B.Letha Rose Elma 19 Jan 1917

C.Maxine Elizabeth 25 Dec. 1918

D. Travis Devreaux 25 Oct 1921

E.Stephen Glen 14 Dec 1923

F. Melba Alice 8 June 1929

G. Edgar Alan 25 Nov 1932

Marraed: 2. Ernest Freeman Griffin 1April 1964

IX Etta Josephine Harris b.16 Sept.1894 d. 20 Jan 1983 bu. Pinewood Memorial Married: Joseph Wellington Maxwell 25 Jan 1914

Children: A. Joseph Richard 14 June 1915

B. Helen Inez 17 July 1917

C. Chloe Etta 12 March 1921

D. Mary Aline 19 Dec 1823

E. James Ralph 11 May 1928

X Clyde Larkin Harris 24 Nov 1896 d.7 April 1976 bu. Unity Cemetery Never married.

XI John Grady Harris b. 28 Nov 1899 bu. Memory Gardens, Farmington, N.M.

Married: .. Jamie McPherson

Children: AWillie Mae

Married 2 Emma Hymen

Children: B. Kenneth

Married 3: Viola McDonald

Children: None

XII Harry Meyers Harris b.21 Aug 1904 d. 3 Sept 1924 bu. Unity Cemetery Never married

XIII Clifford Thompson Harris b. 17 Oct 1907

Married: Lorene Wooten Daley

Children: A. Shirley Mae

B. Clifford Royce

C. John Kelsey

D. Thomas Glen

E. Donald Lowell

IXV Fredick Eugene Harris b. 21 Oct 1910

Married: Clara Ellen Lochala 28 Nov 1936

Children: A.Stewart Eugene 14 Oct 1937

B. James Roland b. 29 April 1940

6. Freda Ellen b. 10 Feb 1942

James Cannon Harris was the oldest son of Green Berry Harris and Parmilia Ann Elizabeth Adair. They were married 2 March 1848 in Paulding County, Georgia. During the Civil War Green served in Co C,7th Regt. Ga. Vol. Inf, Army of North Virginia, Pauldings Volunteers, Private, May 31,1861. He was wounded at First Manassas, Va. July 21,1861 and discharged Beptember 1862. He was a farmer.

Parmilia was the daughter of Whitmill H. Adare and Sarah (Sally) Sorrells. Her father was prominent in Georgia politics as was his father ,Bozeman Adare, born in 1771 in Virginia. Bozeman was a farmer, lawyer, merchant, and member of the

Baptist Faith.

"Can" Harris was a big man for his day and from all accounts, strong and well beloved by family and friends. He had a great sense of humor and loved a good prank.

His first wife was Jane Elizabeth Jones. They had five children. At this point I do not know anything about her except her parents. Where or when she died?

The family moved to Cullman, Alabama and later to Carbon Hill, where he worked on the railroad, laying ties, etc.

One frosty morning his brother Charlie slipped as they crossed a trestle over a ravine and fell to his death.

His first wife had died and he married stateen year old Rosa Isadora Gallagher of Eldridge, Alabama. She was the daughter of John Wright Gallagher and Sarah Jane Sherrer.

Can came to Arkansas and worked making ties and staves on Bayou Bartholomew around Parkdale to see if he really wanted to come to this new state and live. He went back and got his family and brought them to Ashley Count about 1894. They first lived in the Unity Community. In 1904 he filed Homestead Papers on what is now the old homesite. The first house burned about 1928 and was rebuilt. It is now (1986) occupied by his son, Clifford's, son, Don Harris.

He was a farmer and operated a dairy. In the winter he took the boys and camped in the Ouchita bottoms where they made staves. He lost two sons to swamp fever, Green and Harry.

The family attended county affairs and I have heard them tell about the horse races and buggy races.

Freinds and relatives were always welcome to come and stay as long as they liked. Teachers from the one room school-house just down the road usually boarded with the family.

Once some of his sons and their friends got into some mischief and some of them wound up in jail. When the others reported it to their father so he could bail them out he refused on the grounds ,"I'll never look through bars at a son of mine."

One of his favorite jokes was, "the devil owed me a debt and paid me off with Maxwell son-in-laws." Willie, Eula, and Etta all married Maxwell men.

Green Berry Harris lived in a small cabin on his son's farm. He became angry about something and set out for Alabama on foot. Tragicly he was never heard from again.

My childhood memories (he died when I was ten) are of a large man sitting in a chair on his front porch to watch the family and freinds go by. I remember he wore a high crowned, widebrimmed black hat.

It was his dream to live to be age one hundred, but at ninty-one he suffered a stroke. He managed to hang on to life until his daughter, Belle, who lived in west Texas made it home.

Me enjoyed studying and discussing the Bible and was a member of the Church of Christ. When his older children were old enough to obey the gospel he had a preacher come and hold a meeting so they could be saved.

Granny Harris was a small woman and made the best "biscuit puddin" in the whole wide world. She used real butter and lots of it with black walnuts that gave it that special flavor.

She had a temper and a tart manner of speaking when riled. One day she decided to join her husband and kids in the field. Can made fun of her hoeing and she stomped back to the house. One of the sons said, "Papa, you made her mad."

He replied, "She has no business out here---she has enough to do in the house." He also saw that she have an afternoon nap, undisturbed.

When her neighbors needed help she was there. During the Flu Epidemic of 1918 she was not afraid to nurse them.

She wore her hair coiled in a bun and her dresses to her shoe tops. Rosie lived to be ninty-six, unfortunately, the last six she was bedfast. Much of the time, in her mind, she was "little Jackie" back at home with mama and papa.

At her death she left approximately one-hundred and twenty-five decendants. What courage she must have had to leave home and family and go to the wilderness of Arkansas as the wife of a man with a daughter almost as old as herself!

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Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved



I am searching for an obituary for John B. WOOTEN who died in April 1923. I have enclosed a family group record. Any additional information on this family will be appreciated.

C. N. & J. D. ARTERBUTN 138 Le Arta Dr. Henderson, NV 89074

I am researching genealogy information on my mother's side of the family. I am looking for birth record or burial record for my great grandmother, Julia Ellen BEAVERS MURRAY. she was born in 1852, married Robert MURRAY in 1872, Bearhouse Township, Ashley County Arkansas. She was on 1880 and 1900 census. 1900 shows her as a widow. Her daughter, Nancy Dora MURRAY, wed Nathan Alexander PHILLIPS. My mother was born 23 February 1912. My Grandmother died that same month and year and my mother was raised by her grandmother. It is said that she was Indian and could have held tribual rites if she had returned to the tribe. The 1880 census shows her parents from Georgia; the 1900 census shows Alabama. If anyone can help, it would be appreciated.

Julia D. HEIMEYER Rt. 11 Box 401 Texarkana, TX 75501

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